

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CURACA 00529 081836Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /057 W
----- 036459

R 081245Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2422

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNATO BRUSSELS

COMNAVFORCARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS PR

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL HAMILTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

S E C R E T CURACAO 0529

STATE FOR ARA/CAR, PALAZZOLO; PANAMA FOR HOLBROOK AFB, CZ;
HAMILTON FOR USNAS; FOR NAVAL ATTACHES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MORG, MPOL, NA, NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMOVAL OF DUTCH NAVAL AIRCRAFT FROM THE NA

SUMMARY

1. DURING LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, GON PROPOSED CUTBACK OF
F1 217 MILLION IN DUTCH NAVY BUDGET. SAVINGS TO BE EFFECTED
BY SCRAPPING OF CRUISER QTE SEVEN PROVINCES UNQTE AND NAVAL
AIR SQUADRON OF 15 NEPTUNES AT VALKENBURG. THREE AIRCRAFT OF
THIS SQUADRON ARE ON STATION AT CURACAO. IF AIRCRAFT ARE
WITHDRAWN FROM CURACAO, ROYAL DUTCH NAVY (RNLN) FORCES HERE
WILL LOSE INTER-ISLAND MOBILITY AND BILATERAL COOPERATION
WITH U.S. NAVY AND OTHER NATO POWERS FOR SURVEILLANCE, WEATHER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CURACA 00529 081836Z

RECONNAISSANCE AND AIR SEA RESCUE WILL NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE.

END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO RNLN, GON POLICY AND GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION FORCING DUTCH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO CONSIDER QTE SAVING UNQTE OF F1 217 MILLION BY SCRAPPING OF CRUISER QTE SEVEN PROVINCES UNQTE AND DISBANDING OF NEPTUNE SQUADRON (WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE PHASED OUT ABOUT 1978) AS OF JAN. 1, 1976, BUT WITHOUT ANY REPLACEMENT SQUADRON. (RNLN SAYS IT HAD BEEN AN OPEN SECRET THAT NEPTUNES WERE TO BE REPLACED BY ATLANTICS IN 1978.)

3. NEPTUNE SQUADRON OF 15 AIRCRAFT IS STATIONED AT NAS VALKENBURG WITH THREE PLANES, ON A ROTATING BASIS, IN NA UNDER COMMAND OF FLAG OFFICER, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES (FONANTILLES). NEPTUNES, WHICH REPLACED SP-5 AIRCRAFT ON CURACAO IN 1974, ARE USED FOR ROUTINE SURVEILLANCE AND ALSO BY FONANTILLES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO OTHER ISLANDS IN THE NA FOR TRAINING AND OPERATIONS. LOSS OF THE PLANES WOULD SEVERELY LIMIT MOBILITY OF DUTCH FORCES IN THE NA TO COMMERCIAL SOURCES AND OCCASIONAL USE OF SINGLE NAVAL VESSEL (FRIESLAND CLASS DESTROYER) UNDER COMMAND OF FONANTILLES AND USUALLY IN COMMAND AREA WHICH THEORETICALLY INCLUDES ENTIRE WESTERN HEMISPHERE BUT NORMALLY LIMITED TO AREA FROM PUERTO RICO TO SURINAM. FONANTILLES WOULD LOSE ALL CAPABILITY FOR COOPERATION WITH FRIENDLY NAVAL FORCES NEEDING AIR SUPPORT AND WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF SURVEILLANCE, AIR SEA RESCUE AND WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE. ADDITIONALLY, SAVINGS EFFECTED BY THE GON IN THIS MOVE WOULD CAUSE REMOVAL OF ALL QUALIFIED NAVAL PERSONNEL FROM CURACAO AIRPORT LEAVING ONLY CIVILIANS AT AIRFIELD FOR LIAISON AND ASSISTANCE TO ALLIED NAVAL AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS WEATHER SERVICE AND AIR SEA RESCUE CRAFT. NA HAS ALMOST NO CIVILIAN CAPABILITY IN THIS FIELD.

COMMENT

5. GNA HAS ALREADY SENT LETTER OF PROTEST THROUGH MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY IN THE HAGUE. GNA VIEWS REMOVAL OF PLANES AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD FORCING UNWANTED INDEPENDENCE ON NA. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GNA PROTEST WILL HAVE MUCH FORCE GIVEN PREVIOUS WITHDRAWAL OF PART OF DUTCH MARINE CONTINGENT AND EARLIER REMOVAL OF DUTCH HELICOPTERS FROM NA. PROPOSED WITH-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CURACA 00529 081836Z

DRAWAL OF NEPTUNES MAY ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY DUTCH INTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDING SUGGESTED UNIFICATION OF AIR FORCE WITH NAVAL AIR ARM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF EFFECT LOSS OF NEPTUNE SQUADRON COULD HAVE ON U.S. NAVAL OPERATIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO EXPRESSING USG CONCERN TO GON OVER PROPOSED ACTION.

KREISBERG

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, NAVAL CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CURACA00529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750349-0995
From: CURACAO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751071/aaaacigp.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED REMOVAL OF DUTCH NAVAL AIRCRAFT FROM THE NA SUMMARY
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MORG, MPOL, NA, NL, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006